



Satellite image with enhanced low cloud-top temperatures (degrees C) for 7:15 a.m. EST (NOAA)

Agricultural Weather Highlights - Wednesday - January 8, 2003

- ***In the West***, mild, dry weather favors a return to fieldwork in ***northern California*** and the ***Northwest***, but unfavorably dry conditions persist elsewhere in the ***West***. Farmers from the ***Southwest to the central Rockies*** still face low reservoir levels, meager mountain snow packs, and drought-stressed rangelands.
- ***On the Plains***, slightly cooler air is overspreading ***northern portions of the region***, following recent record warmth. Unusually warm weather lingers for a final day on the ***central and southern Plains***, where today's high temperatures are forecast to range from 65 to 80 degrees F. The region's winter wheat continues to benefit from mild conditions, although the crop remains exposed to potential weather extremes on the drought-affected ***northern and central High Plains***.
- ***In the Corn Belt***, mild, dry weather continues to favor off-season fieldwork in the ***upper Midwest***, while cool weather and snow flurries linger across ***easternmost portions of the region***.
- ***In the South***, cool weather lingers in the ***southern Atlantic region***, resulting in another morning of scattered frost and near- to below-freezing temperatures as far south as ***northern Florida***. However, temperatures remained above the freezing mark (32 degrees F) in ***Florida's citrus belt***. Meanwhile, dry, warmer weather is promoting a limited return to fieldwork in areas from the ***Delta westward***.

Outlook: An arctic airmass will bring an end to the record-breaking warmth that has prevailed across much of the ***Nation's mid-section***. By week's end, the cold air will spread to the ***Atlantic Coast***, halting the brief warming trend that had developed in the ***East***. ***Much of the Nation*** will be dry, although periods of light snow are likely across the ***upper Midwest***. Meanwhile, a slow-moving disturbance will bring periods of rain and snow to ***northern California, the Great Basin, and central Rockies***. The NWS 6-10 day outlook for January 13-17 features drier-than-normal weather ***west of the Rockies and across the northeastern quarter of the Nation***, and above-normal precipitation for the ***High Plains, Florida, and southern Georgia***. Subnormal temperatures are expected ***east of the Rockies***, while above-normal temperatures will be limited to the ***Southwest***.

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